Treaty with Bangladesh

1993. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are all set to sign a bilateral agreement with Bangladesh on long term economic cooperation regarding trade, investment, communications, infrastructure and other matters of mutual interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed agreement would also include provisions for controlling cross border terrorism and extradition of militants and terrorists and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the agreement is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) India and Bangladesh signed a bilateral Trade Agreement on 4 October, 1980. The Agreement has been renewed every three years. The Agreement expired on 3 October, 2001. The Government of Bangladesh proposed that the Agreement be extended by six months and accordingly the Agreement has been extended upto 3 April, 2002. The Government of Bangladesh has proposed to hold bilateral discussions to review the Agreement in order to reflect the developments in the global and regional level. The Agreement focusses on promoting bilateral economic and commercial linkages.

Issues such as cross border terrorism, extradition of militants and terrorist activities are not governed by this Agreement. They are dealth with through other bilateral mechanisms such as the Joint Working Group, Home Secretary-level talks, Foreign Secretary-level talks.